

Tips and Rule Updates For Showing Your Gypsy Vanner Horse

This presentation will cover tips, and some of the 2024 rule updates for showing your Gypsy Vanner horse in competitions.

asked "If you were to give one piece of advice to show exhibitors, what would it be?" Here is what they had to

Make sure you trot your horses. They are not stock halter horses. They are a working breed which needs to move...

Sally Chamberlain

Exhibitors please **read your rule book**...that is what we are judging you on.

Karen Iverson

Read your breed rulebook. So many mistakes can be avoided if people know what the rules are.

Jenny Pierucki

Know your rulebook. You really should know the rules and requirements of each class you show in. I make each and every one of my clients **read the rulebook** for each association, and read the class rules for each class they are showing in. That way they understand what the judges are required to judge.

Julie Usoff

*Read the rulebook and practice before you get to the show. The best show horses are the ones who give the judges the presentation that is expected. A second piece of advice is to have fun. Your energy goes down the lead or through the lines to the horse. Showing is all about enjoying these beautiful animals.

"Show the horse you have on that day. Do not ask more of your horse than it is capable of doing; show the horse's best attributes and help with its weaknesses. **Train and build on the weaknesses at home** so that they improve.

Heather Young

The best exhibitor is a knowledgeable one. **Know your rules**, judge's expectations and always keep learning from your show experience

Pay attention to the details...from understanding class procedures & the rules all the way to dusting your boots off before entering the arena. As a judge, I'm expected to know the rules and to enforce those rules so it's disheartening to have to DQ an exhibitor because they did not comply with the rules. The best & most current example I can give is apropriate tack for the class & using a legal bit. As for the smallest detail such as dusting your boots off, this tells me you are an exhibitor that is serious about your turnout & performance. It's the smallest of details that can be the difference between winning a class and placing fourth.

Karen Doby

"First and foremost: Always consider the horse. Having this show experience was not their idea today. Your horse should always be better at the end of the day for their effort, no matter what you think, they really did **give 100**% of what they had available. To the horse it is not about the ribbon, it is about how you made them feel. And second: A show is just one person's opinion (the judge) on one day in your life, take the opinion with grace and when you know better do better.

Make sure to read the 2024 Rules in their entirety, showcase your horse to the best of your ability....















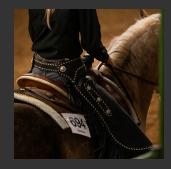
Show Numbers

Make sure that your number is visible and that you are using the correct number.



Numbers cannot be covered

Numbers must be fully visible and not covered by hair or clothing.



Place numbers on both sides

Putting numbers on both sides of the saddle pad ensures visibility.



No changing numbers

Changing the horse's number may result in disqualification.



Driving vehicles

Numbers must be visible.

Failure of an exhibitor to wear the correct number in a visible manner will be given one (1) warning at the show before being disqualified.

Under Saddle Line Up

Follow the directions of the announcer

Line up at least 1 horse length away from show personnel

Stay a safe distance from other horses

You may be asked to back your horse as the judge approaches





In-Hand Line Up

Exhibitors should line up their Gypsy Vanner horses at a safe distance apart.





Halter and Showmanship Tips







Do not obstruct the judge's view.

Show Attire

No names

Attire may not display farm names, owner's names or horse's names.

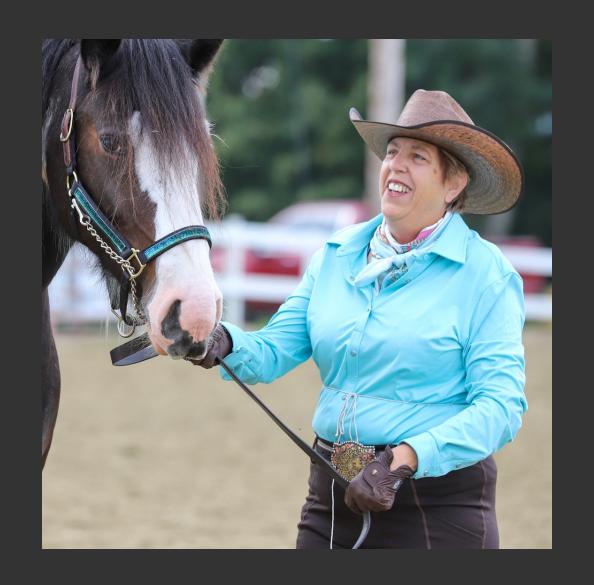


No logos

Attire may not display farm logos.



In Hand Attire



Western attire should consist of a sleeved shirt with collar, jeans or long pants with suitable boots. Belts, gloves, hats, ties, scarves, vests and jackets are optional. If a jacket is worn a collared shirt is not required.

In Hand Attire



English attire may be either breeches or jodhpurs with boots and a shirt with tie or choker. Jackets, vests, gloves, belts, and hats are optional. If helmets are worn they must conform to General Conduct helmet rules. Half chaps are permitted.

Sport attire should consist of slacks or khakis with either a shirt or tie or an appropriate shirt. Footwear may be boots, closed-toe shoes, or leather running shoes.

Showmanship Attire

Attire may be Western or English



Show Attire - English Pleasure

- Riders should wear a traditional Hunt or Dressage style coat made of a material appropriate for the area and season.
- ✓ Traditional breeches or jodhpurs must be worn.
- Footwear may consist of traditional field or dress boots, or paddock boots with half chaps. Youth may wear paddock boots with garters instead of half chaps.
- ✓ Very bright or neon colors are not appropriate. If attire in question refer to the USEF guidelines.
- Helmets must be worn.



Show Attire - Hunter Division

- Riders should wear traditional Hunt style coats made in a conservative color and of a material appropriate for the area and season.
- ☆ Traditional breeches or jodhpurs in buff, grey, rust, or canary worn with black or brown hunt or field boots should be worn.
- Half chaps are permitted.
- Helmets must be worn in blue, black, or brown.
- Dressage attire is strictly prohibited- use will result in disqualification. Same with tack.

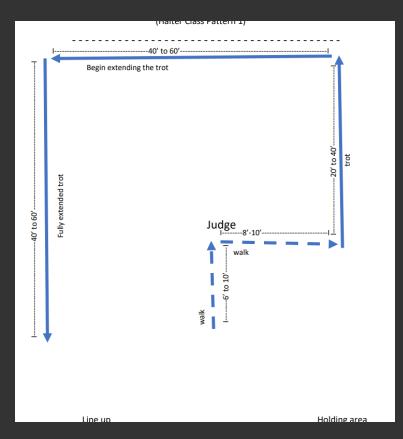


Show Attire- Western Division

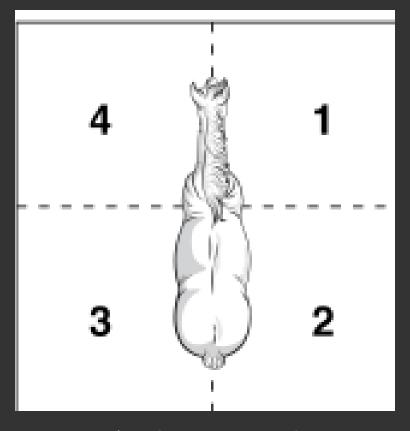
- Rider's attire must include a long-sleeved shirt with collar, jeans or long pants, boots and hat.
- Optional attire to include tie, scarf, belt, gloves vest, jacket, and chaps and spurs.
- Protective headgear may be worn by any exhibitor without penalty.



Halter and Showmanship Tips







Practice halter patterns

Exhibitors should practice the halter patterns at home before competitions to feel prepared.

Practice pivoting

Exhibitors should practice pivoting with their horse to perform smooth transitions in the ring..

Practice the crossover dance

Exhibitors should practice the crossover dance maneuver to feel comfortable executing it in the show ring.





Updates Include:



2024

B. General Show Rules
 Equine Definitions, Competition
 Definitions

D. GeneralConduct/Responsibilities

Competition Officials Relationships, Prohibited Conduct/Disqualifications

E/F. In Hand and Specialty In Hand

General, Presentation, Pattern 1, Gaits, Attire, Judging Criteria and Class Specification, Scoring G/H/I.English/Dressage/Hunter

Qualifying Gaits, Appointments, Scoring, Attire, Hunter Under Saddle

K. Western/Ranch

Qualifying Gaits, Appointments, Horsemanship, Scoring, Ranch Rail Pleasure, Ranch Riding

L. TrailAppendix B, Obstacles, Scoring

N. Specialty Classes
 Costume Appointments, Freestyle, Liberty

SECTION B.

General Show Rules



Definitions (competition)

A horse may show in the **Green Horse Walk/Trot(Jog)** division for up to 1 calendar year.

2 **Novice** is in 2nd year of showing.

Maiden has never shown at a recognized breed or color show, (GVHS, GHRA, Pinto, GHSA).



If an exhibitor loses their hold on the horse's lead then the horse and the exhibitor will be excused from the ring.

DEFINTIONS (COMPETITION) >

SECTION D.

General Conduct & Responsibilities Rules



All dates for relationship terminations change from 60 days to 6 months (180 days) on July 1, 2024.

SEE RULES PAGES 10-11>



In the interest of fair and balanced competition, where two levels (levels are defined as WT/WJ and WTC/WJL) are offered within the same division (divisions are defined as Open, Amateur, Amateur Owner, and Youth), the same horse cannot compete in both levels within a division.

For example- The same horse may not compete in both Open English Pleasure Walk-Trot and Open English Pleasure Walk-Trot Canter however, the same horse may compete in Open Walk Trot English Pleasure with rider A and Amateur Walk Trot Canter English Pleasure with rider B). The same horse and rider combination must stay within the same level at a competition regardless of division.



It is strongly recommended that horses not be shown in more than two divisions at a competition to allow for proper recovery time between classes and in the best interest of the animal's health and well-being.

SECTION D. 1

Prohibited Conduct & Disqualifications

Please review pages 11-14

and Appendix A and B

	APPENDIX A	
	GVHS Animal Welfare Penalty and Fines List	
Rule	Description	Level of Offense
	The use or application of, to or into any horse of any	
	foreign or caustic substance, such as ginger, mustard,	
	pepper, abrasives, etc, which alter or influence a horse's	
D.1.2	movement, tail carriage or behavior	Level 2
	Placing an object in a horse's mouth so as to cause undue	
D.1.a	discomfort or distress.	Level 2
	Leaving a bit in a horse's mouth for extended periods of	
D1.b	time so as to cause undue discomfort or distress.	Level 1
	Tying a horse up, back or around in a stall or anywhere on	
	the grounds at a GVHS event in the manner as to cause	
D.1.c	undue discomfort or distress	Level 1
	Lunging or riding in a manner as to cause undue	
D.1.d	discomfort or distress.	Level 1
	Tying or fastening any foreign object onto a horse, halter,	
D.1.e	bridle and/or saddle in order to de-sensitize the horse	Level 1
	Use of training techniques or methods such as poling	
	(altering an obstacle while the horse is negotiating the	
D.1.f	obstacle) or striking a horse's legs with objects	Level 2
D.1	Excessive use of spurs, spurring in front of the	
D.1.g	cinch/girth and/or excessive jerking of reins	Level 1
	Excessive use of a whip on any horse in a stall, aisleway,	
	schooling area, competition ring or elsewhere on the	
	competition grounds, before or during a competition, by	
	any person. Except in emergency situations, any striking	
	of the horse's head (on the poll and forward of the poll)	
D.1.h	with the whip shall be deemed excessive	Lovel 1
D.1.n	Function calculate (defined as as assess than slabt (0)	Level 1
D 4 1	Excessive spinning (defined as no more than eight (8)	Louis d
D.1.i	consecutive turns in either direction)	Level 1
	Schooling using rails over 4ft or schooling over ramped	
D.4.1	oxers in reverse order (i.e., from highest to lowest instead	Laural d
D.1.j	of lowest to highest)	Level 1
	Use of prohibited equipment, including, but not limited	
	to, saw tooth bits, hock hobbles, tack collars or tack	
D.1.k	hackamores	Level 2
	Use of any item or appliance that restricts movement or	
D.1.l	circulation of the tail.	Level 2
	Exhibiting a horse which appears to be sullen, dull,	
D.1.m	lethargic, emaciated, drawn or overly tired.	Level 1
	Intentional or negligent treatment which results in any	
	bleeding, open wound and/or severe raw area.	
D.1.n	Intentional blood	Level 3

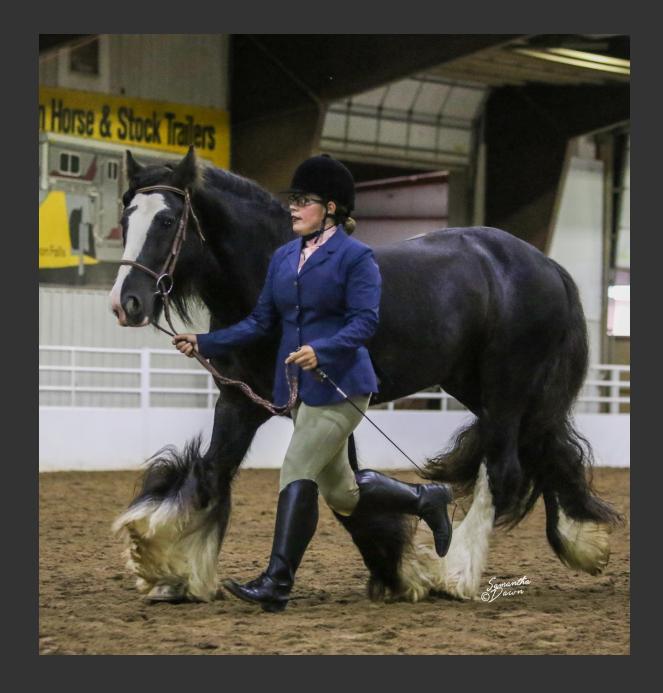
on for 2 or more years	
suspension	
nal year probation	
n a year or while on probation	
ision	\$1000-\$3000
one year suspension	\$500-\$1000
	\$0-\$250
	Fines
Jac. 43 Chama, Mackies, 1000ci	Level 2
such as chains, shackles, rubber	
aides that alter the natural	Level Z
nts or nerve blocking	Level 2
gn substance into a horse's tail,	Level 1
onduct deemed inhumane by a	Level 1
any person.	Level 1
ion ring or elsewhere on the	Level 1
horse in a stall, aisleway,	
ure on or excessively jerking on a ord or allowed safety chain	Level 1
scabbed area.	Level 2
jury" is defined as an open	Lavala
ohibited equipment. For	
negligent treatment, prohibited	
, glue or hair to hide an injury	
, including but not limited to,	
ntional blood	Level 1
s in any bleeding, open wound	

	APPENDIX B	
	VHS Unsportsmanship Conduct Penalty and Fines List	
	,	
Rule	Description	Level of Offense
	Conduct designed to distract a horse, or any conduct that	
D.1.12	otherwise interferes with the showing of another	Level 1
D.1.12	exhibitor's horse The addition of supplemental hair in the mane, foretop,	Level 1
D.1.9	tail or feather	Level 1
D.1.9	Use of Electronic Communication Devices other than	Level 1
D.1.18	what is permitted in Section D1.18 of the GVHS Rulebook	Level 1
D.1.10	Conduct that is rude, unruly, or causing distress to Show	LCTC! 1
	Staff, other Exhibitors, Judges or Facility Owners and their	
D.1.13	employees.	Level 1
	Threats of physical violence towards Show Staff, other	l
	Exhibitors, Horses, Judges, Spectators, Facility Owners	I
D.1.14	and/or their employees, either written, verbal or implied.	Level 2
	Any act of physical violence towards Show Staff, other	
	Exhibitors, Horses, Judges, Spectators, Facility Owners	
D.1.15	and/or their employees	Level 3
	Any act committed or remark made in connection with	
	the competition considered offensive and/or made with	ı
	the intent to influence or cast aspersions on the character	
	or integrity of the licensed officials and/or public verbal	
D.1.16	abuse of competition officials	Level 1
	Approaching a judge before or after a decision without	
	first obtaining permission from the show committee or	ı
	steward/technical delegate and/or inspecting a judge's	ı
	card without the judge's permission	
D.25		Level 1
	Retaliation against a person for making an allegation of	ı
	any rule violation, for supporting a reporting party or	ı
	witness, or for providing information relevant to a	
	potential violation. Retaliation may be considered any	
	adverse action taken by an individual against a person	ı
D.1.17	participating in a GVHS proceeding	Level 2
	Fines and Penalty	
	- II	
	Penalty	Fines
Level 1	One Year Probation	¢0.¢250
Level 2	One Year Probation One Year Probation up to one year suspension	\$0-\$250 \$500-\$1000
Level Z		2300-21000
Level 3	Minimum three year suspension up to Perminate Expulsion from the GVHS	\$1000-\$3000
revers	Expusion from the Office	\$1000-\$3000
	More than one penalty in a year or while on probation	
	more triali one penalty in a year or write on probation	
Level 1	\$500 fine and an additional year probation	
Level 2	2x the fine and one year suspension	
Level 3	Perminate Expulsion from the GVHS	

SECTION E.

In Hand Division





Placeholders: Only one handler may be allowed in the ring with each horse. Placeholders of the same division (Open, Youth, AOE, Amateur) as the primary handler are permitted for in hand halter. In Open classes, placeholders can be used in any class. Points in Youth, Amateur, and Amateur Owner Exhibitor classes are awarded to the person, not the horse. In Amateur classes, the placeholder must also possess an amateur card and can only place hold in Championship classes. For Amateur Owner Exhibitor classes, only amateur owners on record may handle the horse. In Youth classes, youth placeholders may only be used in Championship classes.

DEAD OUD MANIEESTO >

Gaits

- The trot should be a strong, forward moving gait and shall exhibit good impulsion and power from the hindquarters while being balanced with an even cadence in the stride.
- The trot should be a smooth, ground covering, two beat diagonal gait with forward movement (not a jog) and suspension in the stride.
- Judging Criteria and Class
 Specifications- Any horse not demonstrating proper gaits will be penalized.



In Hand Attire



Attire may be Western, English, Evening or Sport type.

Evening in Hand attire may consist of more formal attire including suits or tuxedos for men and pants and dress jackets for ladies. Hats are not required for evening attire.

Showmanship Attire

Attire may be Western or English

Sport attire and Evening attire removed



Speciality In Hand-Judging Criteria and Class Specification

Pattern/Blagdon color class is judged 80% on color/markings, 20% on conformation. Judges should be looking for 50/50 color pattern with clean lines between colors, consistency of markings and boldness of colors. Blagdon should be judged on boldness of color and consistency of splash markings rather then 50/50 pattern. Neither pattern nor blagdon should be preferred over the other.









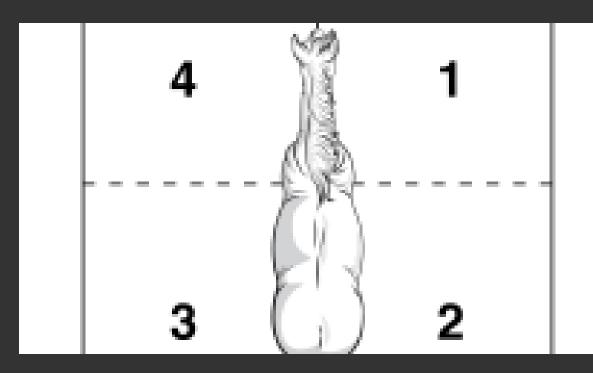
Speciality In Hand-Judging Criteria and Class Specification

Solid color class will be judged 80% on color/markings, 20% on conformation. Judges should be looking for richness and consistency of color. Credit should be given for consistency of markings (i.e. matching socks on front). Horses with markings are not preferred over horses without. If the horse has a dapple pattern, the judge should look at the boldness and consistency of the pattern.

(Solid roan horses are in this category)



Showmanship



The Quarter System is used to judge Showmanship.



Scoring will be based on 0-infinity, with 70 denoting an average performance. Each maneuver will receive a maneuver score that should be added or subtracted from 70 and is subject to a penalty that should be subtracted. Each maneuver will be scored on the following basis, ranging from plus 1½ to minus 1½: Changes in fault classifications. See Rules.

SECTION G, H & I

English, Dressage & Hunter





Judges may ask for the extended trot to be shown one or both directions. Horses shall be asked to back.

Equitation



Scoring will be based on 0infinity, with 70 denoting an average performance. Each maneuver will receive a maneuver score that should be added or subtracted from 70 and is subject to a penalty that should be subtracted. More information shown in the rule book.

Equitation



2023 Rules Walk-Trot Classes Only-Exhibitors going off pattern, knocking over or on wrong side of cone, never performing specified gait, or over-turning more than ½ turn than designated, shall not be disqualified, but must always place below exhibitors not incurring a disqualifying fault.

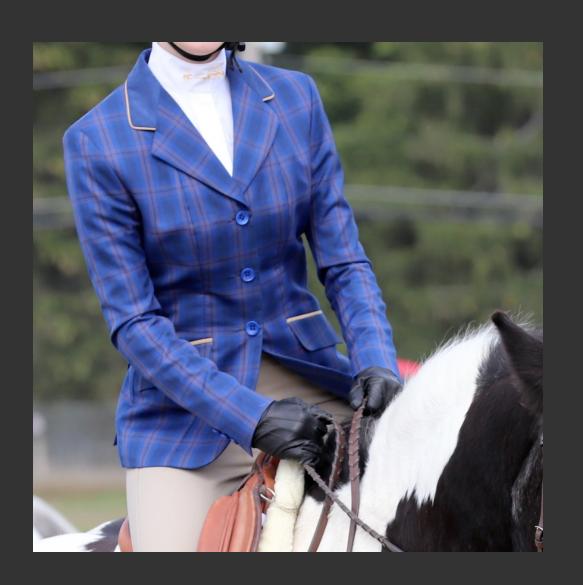
Now A disqualification for Everyone- Going off pattern, including knocking over or wrong side of cone or marker; never performing designated gait or lead; over or under turning more than 1/4 turn

Attire/Appointments



Dressage- Attire: A short riding jacket or cutaway coat with short tails, a shirt with tie, choker, stock tie or integrated stand-up collar, white, light or dark colored breeches or jodhpurs, tall boots or paddock/jodhpur boots with half-chaps in a matching color. Youth may wear paddock boots with garters instead of half chaps. Gloves of conservative color are recommended. Jackets may have subtle pin striping, checks or tweed, a collar of a different hue, modest piping, or crystal accents. Very bright or neon colors are not appropriate. If in question, refer to USDF guidelines

Attire/Appointments



Hunter Division- A lack of required tack, equipment, appointments or attire shall be grounds for disqualification from the class. Dressage tack and attire are strictly prohibited and their use will result in disqualification.

Attire/Appointments

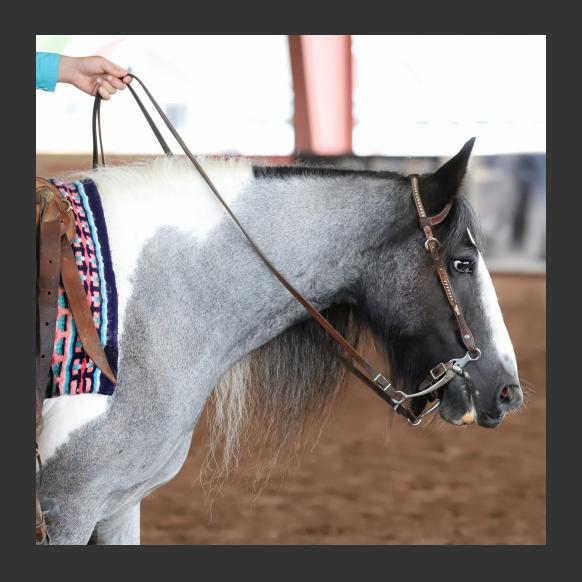


Bridles, bits and tack must match the attire of the rider. For example if the rider is wearing dressage attire they are allowed to use bits that are permitted in the dressage division. SECTION K

Western, & Ranch



Appointments



Split reins or closed reins with romal are equally acceptable.

When **split reins** are used the ends fall on the side of the reining hand, with one finger between the reins.

Appointments



Romel reins (only in conjunction with a shanked bit) are allowed. When closed reins with romal are used, the end may be held by the rider provided it is held at least 16 inches from the reining hand. When using a romal, the rider's hand shall be around the reins with the wrist kept straight and relaxed, the thumb on top and the fingers closed around the reins. No fingers between the reins are allowed. The non-rein hand must be on the romal. The romal shall not be used forward of the cinch or to signal or cue the horse in anyway. Any infraction of this rule shall result in disqualification.

Qualifying Gaits: Judges may ask for a moderate extension of the jog, one or both directions. Horses will be asked to back. Exception: no lope will be required in a Walk Jog Class. Horses are to be reversed to the inside (away from the rail) and will not be asked to reverse at a lope.



Horsemanship Scoring



Scoring will be based on 0-infinity, with 70 denoting an average performance. Each maneuver will receive a maneuver score that should be added or subtracted from 70 and is subject to a penalty that should be subtracted. Each maneuver will be scored, ranging from plus $1\frac{1}{2}$ to minus $1\frac{1}{2}$: See the rules for more information

Horsemanship Scoring



2023 Rules Walk-Jog Classes **Only**-Exhibitors going off pattern, knocking over or on wrong side of cone, never performing specified gait, or over-turning more than ½ turn than designated, shall not be disqualified, but must always place below exhibitors not incurring a disqualifying fault.

Now A disqualification for Everyone- Going off pattern, including knocking over or wrong side of cone or marker; never performing designated gait or lead; over or under turning more than ½ turn

Ranch Rail

The horse can be ridden with light contact or on a relatively loose rein without requiring undue restraint, but not shown on a full drape of reins.



Ranch Riding



Scoring will be based on 0infinity, with 70 denoting an average performance. Each maneuver will receive a maneuver score that should be added or subtracted from 70 and is subject to a penalty that should be subtracted. Each maneuver will be scored on the following basis, ranging from plus 1½ to minus 1½: See Rules.

SECTION L

Trail



Qualifying Gaits and Obstacles



Qualifying Gaits and Obstacles See GVHS RULEBOOK
APPENDIX B for further details.



Ground Tie removed.



Use of two hands if riding in a shanked bit, only one hand may be used on the reins, except that it is permissible to change hands to work an obstacle, or to straighten reins when stopped. Any hold on the reins is legal while working an obstacle that requires changing hands as long as not more than one finger is between the reins.

The following shall be considered "Off Pattern", not to be disqualified, but must always place below exhibitors not incurring one of the following Off Pattern faults.

a. Third cumulative refusal, balk or evading an obstacle by shying or backing over entire course. Judges shall ask exhibitors to move on to the next obstacle after the 3rd refusal or balk. If the horse refuses or balks more than 3 times at a subsequent obstacle they shall be dismissed from the course and disqualified.

b. Failure to ever demonstrate correct lead and/or gait as designated

c. Failure to complete obstacle, i.e., dropping rope gate and not picking it up.

The Rules previously stated that "horses shall be disqualified if Off Course"



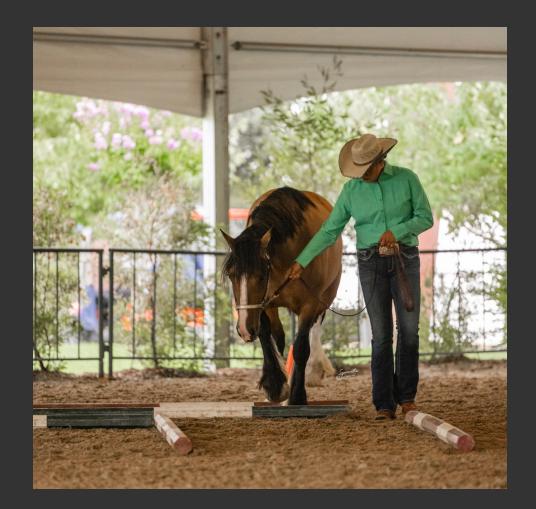
Faults which occur on the line of travel between obstacles and should be scored according to severity, in maneuver scores:

- a. Head carried too high
- b. Head carried too low (tip of ear below the withers)
- c. Over-flexing or straining neck in head carriage so the nose is carried behind the vertical. Once a disqualifying fault has been marked and agreed upon by both judges (If multiple judges are being used) that exhibitor shall be whistled off course and dismissed from the arena. They shall not complete the course.



Once a **disqualifying fault** has been marked and agreed upon by both judges (If multiple judges are being used) that exhibitor shall be whistled off course and **dismissed** from the arena. They shall not complete the course.





SECTION N

Specialty Classes



Costume





Lances are not permitted.





- This class is open to the rider's imagination and presentation of their horse. Any style of riding and pattern will be acceptable. Musical Freestyle combines the elegance and beauty as well as the power and strength of the horse with the stirring impact of music. Movements and figures are choreographed to music to create an artistic expression of horse and rider that highlights the horse/rider combination. Choice of music, and the way it is edited together, is just as important as the technical aspects of the freestyle. The music can be anything from classical to show tunes. The actual routine you develop should show your horse off to its best advantage. It should make the most of your horse's gaits and movements and be appropriate for your level of riding skill.
- Riders are not permitted to have bare feet.
- No masks that cover the eyes of the rider or the horse.



- Saddles are recommended, any exhibitor wanting to perform their freestyle bareback must get approval from show management prior to the start of the class. Show management may request to observe the exhibitor and their horse perform bareback in warm up to verify safety.
- Youth exhibitors may not ride bridleless.
- The rider must remain seated (no standing on the horse).



- Props (such as a Garrocha pole) may be allowed on a case by case basis and must be approved in advance by show management. No props may leave any sort of substance residue in the arena after their use, such as glitter, confetti, paint etc...
- The judge may stop the ride at any time if safety becomes a concern.



- The presentation is 2 to 4 minutes long.
- Costumes are allowed provided they are safe, will not cause other horses to spoor or shy, and do not in any way affect the rider's ability to control their horse safely at all times. Costumes require prior approval from show management. Exhibitors may submit pictures of their costumes to show management prior to the show to confirm that they are deemed allowable and meet safety standards.

Scoring

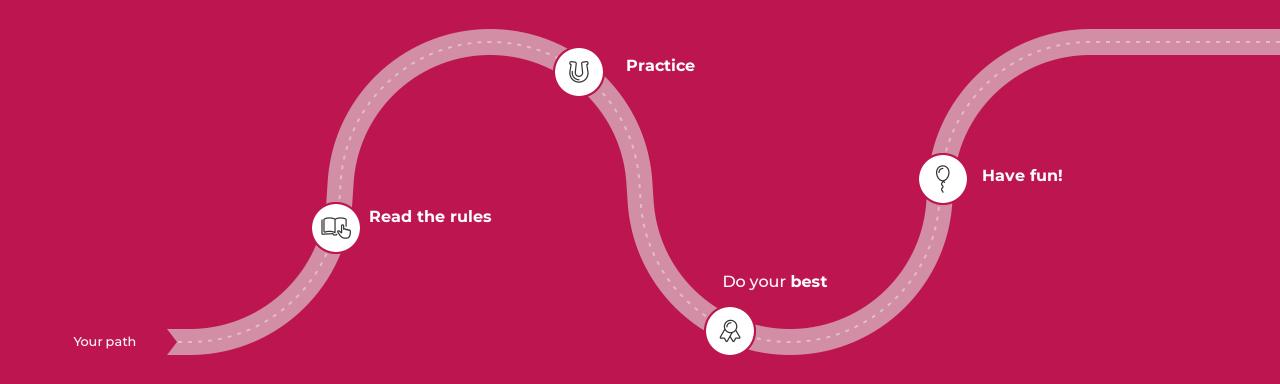
 Judging Criteria and Class Specifications have been updated- see rules. Maneuvers may include but are not limited to the following: walk, trot/jog, lope/canter, hand gallop, halt, transitions, rein back, turn on forehand, turn on hind, spin, side-pass, leg yield, half-pass, pirouette, extended trot circles, large circles, small circles, simple lead changes, flying lead changes, rollback, etc... Example ride with a total of 10 maneuvers: Enter at walk- 1 maneuver Transition to trot-1 maneuver Lope small circle, left-1 maneuver Simple lead change- 1 maneuver Lope small circle, right- 1 maneuver pg. 82 Increase speed, lope large circle- 1 maneuver Half-pass left at a trot- 1 maneuver Half-pass right at a trot-1 maneuver Extended trot-1 maneuver Stop- 1 maneuver



Any horse that attempts to jump out (facing the fence with front feet leaving the ground) of the arena will result in an immediate disqualification. The performance and music will immediately stop and horse must be removed from the arena.

A horse is considered to have fallen when the shoulder and haunch on the same side have touched the ground or obstacle and the ground. If such an event happens, the horse and exhibitor will be excused from the ring and disqualified.

So now...



GVHS extends its gratitude to everyone who contributed to this educational slideshow:

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- Taylor Hanes
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- and more...